MANITOBA WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1991/92

MANITOBA WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL
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September 30, 1992

The Honourable Bonnie Mitchelson
Minister responsible for the Status of Women
Room 118 Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit to you the Annual Report of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1992.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Gault
Chairperson

93-02448/

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Chairperson,
Marilyn Gault

While some small steps and some larger steps inch us closer to our goals, the challenge for equality continues. I am pleased to highlight some of the advances initiated and undertaken by Council in 1991/92.

Council prepared recommendations and briefs to government and other institutions which dealt with a variety of issues such as, equality of opportunity for women's education, the need for more awareness about, recognition of, and appropriate treatment responses for victims of sexual abuse, the licensing of midwives, women's safety, community health services for women and justice issues, among others.

On April 23, 1991, The Advisory Council released its Single-Parent Families Report, a comprehensive, well-documented overview of the issues and concerns associated with single parenthood in Manitoba. The Report also contains recommendations for the implementation of guidelines and services which would recognize the special needs of single parent families. After submission of the report to government, Council began consultations with a Community Consultation Group to expand on implementation strategies for some of the recommendations.

The commemoration of Person's Day on October 28, 1991 was very special in that the Advisory Council together with the Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) introduced the first of what will become a yearly event in Manitoba, the Annual Person's Day Breakfast. This important event celebrates the legal recognition of "women as persons capable of being judges and senators"; and honours Manitoba women who are recipients of the Governor General's Person's Day Award for outstanding contributions in promoting the equality of women in Canada.

In its continued efforts towards zero tolerance of violence against women, the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council urged government departments to undertake a review of their expenditures related to violence against women. Information from such a review is expected to point to the need for enhancing prevention and education programs to eliminate violence.

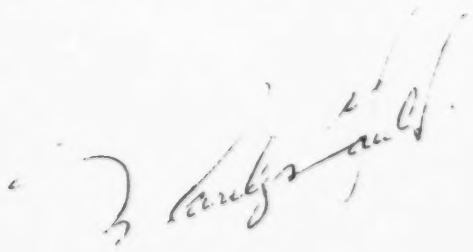
Another issue of importance is entrepreneurship for women, particularly those who have difficulty in access to financial services. To promote and support entrepreneurship for women, Council acted as

a catalyst in setting up the Manitoba Chapter of Women's World Finance.

Constitutional issues were, once again, in the forefront of national activity. Council continued its efforts to ensure Manitoba women would be heard by consulting with women and women's organizations and communicating women's issues to the Premier.

In looking to the future, a major priority of Council involves working towards broadening the educational and occupational horizons of young women and a greater accessibility to training with appropriate support services for women.

Since this report brings to a conclusion my term as Chairperson of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council, I thank all Council members, women and men of Manitoba and Council staff for their support and encouragement during the past three years. I also thank the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, the Honourable Bonnie Mitchelson, for her support and wish the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council a very successful future in its work to achieve full and equal participation by women in society.



ADVISORY COUNCIL

GOAL:

To advance the goal of equal participation of women in society and to promote changes in social, legal and economic structures to that end.

BACKGROUND:

In 1970, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women recommended the creation of a federal Status of Women Council and similar agencies concerned with the status of women in each of the provinces and territories.

As a result of concerted lobbying by women's organizations across the country, a federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women was established in 1973 and several provincial and territorial Advisory Councils have since been brought into existence.

The Government of Manitoba established the Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women through Order-in-Council in 1980. To ensure its permanence as an independent, arms-length organization, Bill 3, The Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act, was introduced in the Manitoba Legislature on March 2, 1987. The Act received royal assent on July 17, 1987.

The Advisory Council requires that in appointing members to Council, the Manitoba Government endeavour to select persons who are representative of the various geographic, ethnic and socio-economic sectors of Manitoba.

In December, 1991, Bill 5, The Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women Amendment Act was introduced into the Legislature. This Bill sought a change of name for Council to the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council. This amendment to the Act received royal assent on June 24, 1992.

MANDATE:

To advise the Government of Manitoba on matters relating to the achievement of full and equal participation of women in society. The Advisory Council advises government on such matters as are referred by government to Council for consideration and on such other matters as Council may consider appropriate to draw to the attention of the Province.

ROLE:

* To identify issues of concern to women and to conduct independent research into these areas.

* To work closely with government officials from a range of departments to promote the development of government initiatives which reflect the right of women to equality.

* To formulate and submit to the

Manitoba Government recommendations which can shape policies, programs and legislation to better serve the needs of women.

* To consult with Manitoba women and women's organizations on existing and emerging issues of concern to women.

* To work in co-operation with women and women's organizations to support and facilitate community activities aimed at improving the status of women.

STRUCTURE:

The Advisory Council operates as an arms-length body, funded by the provincial government, and reports directly to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

Council currently consists of a Chairperson and 15 members, appointed through Order-in-Council for terms of three and two years, respectively.

Council is supported by a staff of four.

Advisory Council Members conferring during Council Meeting

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Council membership is representative of urban, rural and northern women, including aboriginal women, women with disabilities and visible minority women. Members have expertise and experience in a broad range of areas of concern to women, including health, education, the justice system, the media, immigration and settlement, labour, farming, employment and training, economics, the arts, spirituality, work in the home, work in the paid labour market, parenting and grandparenting.

Council members consult regularly with representatives of women's organizations throughout the province and with individuals who are working at the community level on women's issues.

Members bring concerns expressed by Manitoba women to the regular meetings of Council at which time they determine priorities and formulate recommendations to the Manitoba Government.

The 1991/92 fiscal year included some Council members, appointed in 1989 and who were serving the balance of their two year term, as well as members newly appointed to Council to fill vacancies resulting from term expiries.

Advisory Council, 1989 - 1991

BACK ROW (left to right) Edna Lowe, Pearl Seunarine, Arlene Baillie, Judy Burch, Ade Marcotte, Janice Muswagon FRONT ROW - Elodee Portigal, Marilyn Gault, Chairperson, Paula Keirstead, MISSING - Flora Zaharia, Gisele Tetrault, Diane McMillan, Catherine Evenson, Flora Campeau, Pauline Busch, Dina Auriti

NOVEMBER, 1991 TO NOVEMBER, 1993

MARILYN GAULT, CHAIRPERSON, Winnipeg

The principal of Mancin Consultants Ltd., a professional group offering workshops and private consultations to assist in the development of business plans and strategies for proposed and newly operating ventures. She co-ordinated the first annual conference held by the Women Business Owners in Manitoba, "Challenge of the 90's," held in Winnipeg in October 1988. Marilyn is the Founder and Past President of the Women Business Owners of Manitoba; has served two terms as a member of the Council and Executive of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce; has also served on the City of Winnipeg Race Relations Committee; was founding Commanding Officer of the Navy League of Canada Wrenette Corps in Winnipeg and is founder of the first continuously operating Job Finding Club in Winnipeg. Marilyn was nominated as the YWCA Woman of the Year in the categories of "Community Services" (1986) and in "Business" (1989).

DINA AURITI, Brandon

A Licensed Practical Nurse; involved in the Catholic Women's League, the Westman Multicultural Council and the Italian Group of Brandon.

JUDY BURCH, Bagot

A farm partner and child care provider; involved in local farm women's group.

PEARL SEUNARINE, Winnipeg

A teacher and ESL instructor; involved in immigration and multicultural activities, education, training and re-training, and in ESL opportunities for immigrant women.

CAROL-ANN BORODY, Winnipeg

President of C.W. Pooles & Co.; Past President of the Women Business Owners of Manitoba; Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association - Winnipeg Division; and a member of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

MAGGIE BALFOUR, Norway House

The former Chief of Norway House; Director of Education, Medical Services, Health and Welfare; and is an Advisor to Brandon University for Native Language Education.

CAROL BUTTERFIELD, Thompson

Manager of Customer Services, Calm Air, Pacific Western; a former Health Care Administrator for a clinic; and a former town Councillor and Deputy Mayor.

BARBARA THOMPSON, Winnipeg

An R.N., B.N.; presently Program Supervisor, Province of Manitoba, Department of Health; founding President for the Association of Caribbean Nurses; is also involved in the Council of Caribbean Organizations of Manitoba; member of the Immigrant Women's Association.

Photo Not Available

DORIS YOUNG, Winnipeg

The founding member and first President of the Indigenous Women's Collective of Manitoba; President of D.S. Young Professional Services; recently appointed visiting professor of Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba.

SHIRLEY DANDENEAU, Stonewall

Currently operating a skin care business out of her home; and with her husband is part owner of the Rockwood Motor Inn in Stonewall.

BEV DUBE, Powerview

Town Councillor for the Village of Powerview; and an active member of her community.

DOROTHY MONTPETIT, Winnipeg

President, Alpha House Project Inc. which provides second-stage housing for abused women; Past-President of the Women's Inter-Church Council; a member of A.C.T.R.A.; and an active volunteer within the community.

LYNN LECKIE, Winnipeg

A RRCC Business Administration graduate presently involved with the Employment Equity Committee at the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

FRANCINE LEE-MATTHYS, Carman

A lawyer and active member of her community.

CATHERINE MCGOWAN, Winnipeg

A student and former Researcher for Manitoba League for the Physically Handicapped and has addressed disabled women's issues in her studies.

SHANNON HATTON, Winnipeg

A University of Manitoba graduate with a B.A. in Economics; works in the family business.

STAFF

Ruth Mitchell
Executive Director

Olivia Flynn
Executive Director
(March, 1992)

Betty Nordrum
Policy Analyst

Lori Skinner
Administrative Secretary

Dorothy Schulz
Administrative Secretary

RECOMMENDATIONS, BRIEFS, RESPONSES

The Manitoba Women's Advisory Council made recommendations, presented briefs, and responded on the following issues:

ABUSE

- responded to the Preliminary Report of the Ontario Task Force on Sexual Abuse of Patients (July, 1991).

  * Council strongly supports the inclusion of zero tolerance and associated censures, in cases of infraction, as an indication of the seriousness of patient abuse.

  * Council believes that all physicians must be made aware of the reality of abuse and its consequences for victims.

  * The Advisory Council promotes and supports the development of protocols for the recognition and treatment of sexual abuse for all health care workers.

  * Council commends the Ontario Task Force and the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons for taking steps to address this concern.

- asked the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba to publicize their work regarding the issue of sexual abuse of patients in Manitoba in light of the undertaking by the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons to produce a report on the subject (November 29, 1991).

- supported the Manitoba Government's plans to establish a Child Protector's Office and commended the Minister of Family Services for facilitating the development of protocols for interaction between crisis shelters and Child and Family Services Agencies (November 29, 1991).

- supported the Honourable Kim Campbell's decision to proceed with legislation to replace the guidelines substituted for Section 276 by the Supreme Court of Canada in their ruling on the Seaboyer and Gayme cases. Council was concerned that the inappropriate use of past sexual history in sexual assault cases will discourage women from reporting sexual assault.

- responded favourably and supported the Manitoba Government with respect to the following:

  (a) steps being taken by the Provincial Government to deal with the protection of children believed to be in abusive situations.

  (b) the establishment of a Child Protector's Office.

  (c) the development of protocols to ensure security for interaction between crisis shelters and child and family services agencies.

- responded positively to the introduction by the Honourable Kim Campbell into the House of Commons, Bill C-49 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Sexual Assault). Provisions of the proposed legislation indicated a serious effort to protect the rights and dignity of victims of sexual assault.

CHILD SUPPORT

- prepared a response to the public discussion paper on child support prepared by the Federal/Territorial/Provincial Law Committee in September, 1991.

CONSTITUTION

- sought inclusion of Advisory Councils in the consultations on the constitution.

- presented a brief on constitutional issues before the Special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada.

- The Advisory Council held a community forum in April 1991 in collaboration with women law professors knowledgeable on the Constitutional and Charter Rights provisions of the Dobbie/Beaudoin report.

- made a submission in February, 1992 in response to Canada's Constitutional proposals, "Shaping Canada's Future Together: Proposals."

- reiterated the importance of:

  1) protection of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

  2) ensuring that the federal government retained the power to provide national cost-shared programs.

EDUCATION

- recommended to the Secretary of State for Canada that the criteria and schedules for payback for the Student Loan Program be changed to enhance accessibility to the student loan program by mature students, single parents, aboriginal students and students with disabilities. Council also recommended the establishment of a Federal Grant Program for students who are unable to finance their own education.

- The Education Sub-Committee of Council recommended to the Minister of Education that Trustees and Home and School Associations be made aware of problems faced by women in schools such as inequality of treatment experienced by women in schools (May 28, 1991).

EMPLOYMENT

- recommended to the Minister responsible for the Civil Service, that, because many of the recommendations contained in the Hay Report deal directly with procedures of the Civil Service Commission, the committee which deals with

implementation of the recommendations consist of persons outside of the Commission, as well as Commission representatives.

FAMILY LAW

~ prepared an issues paper with the Charter of Rights Coalition (Manitoba) on the Dower Act for submission to the Family Law Branch.

The need for The Dower Act to provide tracing remedies similar to those in The Marital Property Act, was emphasized as a safeguard against the testator depleting the assets through gifts or transfers to third parties. It was further recommended that such amounts should be recoverable and that a surviving spouse should be able to choose to apply under The Dower Act or The Marital Property Act.

HEALTH

~ responded to the draft of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group Paper on Women and Mental Health and other health issues pertaining to women. Council drew attention to the fact that women are greatly affected by issues associated with low economic status and this could have a profound effect on the mental health of women (June 12, 1991).

~ Strongly recommended that use of the Meme Breast Implant be examined to determine its safety and that the testing and approval procedures for all medical devices be examined in order to ensure that the Health Protection Branch testing procedures are followed so that Canadians may rest assured that such devices are safe for use in human tissue.

~ The Health Sub-Committee recommended that all aspects of health care be incorporated in Community Health Care Centres. Individuals entering a Community Health Centre would receive all services from one base. All counselling services with workshops, which involve the physical, mental and social well-being of women should be incorporated into these centres such as:

* for physically, sexually and mentally abused women;

* for women who are re-entering the work force and for other employment-related issues such as advancement;

* for women going through crisis with the natural life cycle;

* for nutrition, financial management, child care, disease prevention, healthy lifestyles;

* for women with drug and alcohol related problems, designed specifically for women.

HOUSING

- congratulated the Harambee Organization on the establishment of the Harambee Housing Co-op, December 1991.

MIDWIFERY

- responded to the Alternative Health Care Services Task Force Report of the Sub-Committee on Midwifery (June, 1991).

  * Council believes it is imperative that the professional licensing body for midwives be an independent, self-governing body, responsible for licensing qualifications, for setting educational standards, and for continuing education.

  * Women in remote, rural and northern areas do not have ready access to nursing education. Since one of many compelling reasons for advocating legal recognition of midwives, is to be sensitive to the needs of women in these areas, requiring nursing training and then midwifery would seem to maintain rather than alleviate the lack of care currently available.

  * Council recommended that dual entry options be put in place including opportunities for enrolling in a post graduate nursing course in midwifery and for direct entry into a midwifery program. It is also necessary to have provisions in place for evaluating qualifications from other jurisdictions.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

- responded positively to the activities commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by the RCMP "D" Division, March 21, 1991.

SAFETY

- sent correspondence to the Minister responsible for the Administration of The Telephone Act and the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce regarding the proposed introduction of Call Management Services by the Manitoba Telephone System. Council's major concern was the threat to anonymity of persons calling service providers such as crisis lines for women's shelters, aids information line, addiction counselling, child agencies, police, and so on.

- presented a brief at the Public Utilities Board on the proposed one-year trial of Call Management Services in Brandon.

- supported the report A Safer Winnipeg for Women and Children by the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, November 29, 1991.

VIOLENCE

- worked in consultation with the Honourable Mary Collins, Minister responsible for the Status of Women in the establishment of the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women.

- in keeping with its strong support for a coordinated interdepartmental, intergovernmental approach to the elimination of violence against women, Council recommended to the Manitoba Government that several of their departments undertake an economic feasibility study to determine the costs of violence against women.

- recommended that northern aboriginal peoples be represented on Manitoba's Pedlar Report Implementation Committee (November 6, 1991).

WOMEN & THE JUDICIARY

- recommended to the federal Minister of Justice that the representation of women's interests be enhanced in the legal and judicial systems of Canada.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As advisor to the Manitoba government on matters of concern to women, it is essential that the Advisory Council is active in the community and accessible to women's organizations across the province. Council serves as a link between women and the Manitoba Government, ensuring that the priority concerns of women are brought to the attention of government decision-makers.

Council supports the efforts of women's organizations and often brings individuals and groups together on issues of common concern.

Administrative assistance is also offered to groups by providing them with meeting space, use of photocopying facilities and assistance with mailing costs.

CONSULTATIONS

SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES CONSULTATION GROUP

Group consultations were held to expand on Recommendation 41 of the Single Parent Family Report regarding the establishment of a Coordinating Office for single-parent families as well as Recommendation 42 with respect to the need for an awareness program for front-line workers who support family members as they deal with the realities of single parenthood. The first consultation with the focus group was held on April 17, 1991.

WOMEN AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Consultations were held with women service providers, women in the medical profession, and others with expertise in the area to provide a focus for Council's report and recommendations on alternative treatment strategies for women substance abusers.

RURAL TOURS

The Chairperson and Executive Director toured rural Manitoba, to discuss with women and women's groups, issues of concern in their communities. In addition, the women were asked for their input on the following:

* possible alternative funding for services to women;
* access to income security in local communities;
* the Constitutional amending formula.

Meetings were held in Dauphin, Swan River, Birtle, Brandon, Melita, Killarney and Carman, Ashern and Steinbach.

FAMILY VIOLENCE COURT

Toured the Family Violence Court with representatives of other women's groups. Also met with Crown Attorneys and Judge Connor.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS

In addition to speaking at conferences, Council members attended a wide range of conferences, meetings and workshops, as participants. Examples include:

- Promoters of Mental Health Continuing Education Conference on Mental Health, Brandon, July 1991.

- Council organized a meeting to facilitate the creation of a non-partisan network and lobby group to promote equal participation of women in the judicial system, March 12, 1992.

- Council's Chairperson was the moderator of the Keynote Panel "Focus on Tomorrow: Child Care Challenge" at the fifteenth annual conference of the Manitoba Child Care Association, January 23, 1992.

- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Advisory Councils Meeting, Regina, May, 1991.

- National Symposium on Women, Law and the Administration of Justice, Vancouver, June 10-12, 1991.

- Attendance at Meetings/Functions of Women's Groups:
  - Women's Employment Counselling Service of Winnipeg, June 11, 1991.
  - North End Women's Resource Centre, June 14, 1991.
  - Opasquiak Women's Resource Centre Annual General Assembly, Thompson, September 27, 28, 1991.
  - Annual Meetings of:
    * North End Women's Resource Centre,
    * Elizabeth Fry Society,
    * Family Services of Winnipeg, Inc.,
    * Social Planning Council,
    * Pluri-elles,
    * Congress of Black Women.
  - Press Conference on Depo-Provera at Women's Health Clinic.
  - Met with the Royal Commission on Reproductive Technologies and arranged a public forum.

- Hosted the Western Regional Meeting of Advisory Councils from October 13-15, 1991 in Winnipeg.

- The Manitoba Women's Advisory Council sponsored a workshop regarding the Canadian Labour Force Development Board, University Women's Club, February 27, 1992.

- Council's Chairperson acted as Inspecting Officer at the Annual Inspection of the Navy League Wrennette Centennial. The inspecting party consisted of four women. The Wrennettes are a Cadet Corps of girls aged 10 to 12 promoting the preservation of Naval tradition, confidence building, self-image, self-esteem, discipline, team work and citizenship.

- Council coordinated a seminar on the Constitution, November, 1991.

- "Creating Fund Raising for the 1990's" conference, a one day seminar with emphasis on fund raising for small and medium sized non-profit organizations,

January 31, 1992.

- Council's Chairperson spoke as a panel member at the University of Winnipeg's seminar on sexual harassment.

- UN End of Decade Conference, March 20, 21, 1992. The theme was Women in Justice.

- YM-YWCA Women of Distinction Awards night, May 2, 1991.

- Women and Mental Health Conference, Banff, May 9-12, 1991.

- Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba Conference, April 26, 27, 1991.

- Aboriginal Traditional Healing Gathering on Sexual Abuse May 29-31, 1991.

- Directions for the 90's: Toward Ending Abuse of Women, University of Manitoba.

- Youth and Multicultural Health Conference.

- Confronting the isms: Racism, Sexism and Classism Conference, February, 1992.

- Manitoba School Counsellors Association Career Symposium, Winnipeg Convention Centre, February, 1992.

- Community Legal Education Association's 3rd Annual Human Rights Conference, Equality: A Conference on Rights, Responsibilities and Remedies, December 10, 1991.

ACTIVITIES

PROMOTED WOMEN'S ISSUES

- continued discussions with focus groups on substance abuse.

- developed recommendation's to present to government regarding a centralized information service where social assistance recipients may obtain information on programs and services.

- mail out of information packages for women and women's groups regarding gun control, bail requirements, and Call Management Services by Manitoba Telephone System.

WOMEN AND JUSTICE

- supported tighter bail requirements for alleged abusers.

- supported strict gun control legislation.

- recommended replacement of rape shield legislation with new legislation.

- recommended that increased number of women judges be appointed to the judiciary.

MANITOBA HERITAGE DAY

- Organized a "Speakers Corner" at the Forks for May 12th celebrations.

SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES REPORT

- This report was released on April 23, 1991.

ABORIGINAL WOMEN

- Co-sponsored Women's Day Celebrations during the Mother Earth's People Environmental Gathering on June 18, 1991. The Gathering was organized by the Aboriginal Cultural Society to explore environmental issues in the belief that destruction of the natural environment can be arrested by utilizing the traditional Aboriginal ways of honouring the sacredness of the earth. The Women's Day Celebrations included a series of workshops on issues affecting Aboriginal women.

- Worked with the Building Links Group - a fund raising coalition.

- Consulted with several groups on a variety of issues such as: the constitution, single parents, child abuse.

- Council supported the work of the Manitoba Department of Northern Affairs and others to develop a Manitoba Government Policy Statement on the Status of Aboriginal Women in Manitoba. The Policy was announced on International Women's Day, March 9, 1992.

WOMEN'S WORLD FINANCE

- Council acted as a catalyst in setting up the Manitoba Chapter of Women's World Finance to service the economic needs of entrepreneurial women in Manitoba. This initiative is ongoing.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Council's Chairperson was appointed to the Domestic Violence Community Advisory Committee which works with the Department of Justice Implementation Committee to develop a strategy for implementing the recommendations of the Pedlar Report.

- Council continues to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Pedlar Report.

FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

- Council continues to liaise for women's groups to establish a provincial funding umbrella for women's initiatives that will review requests and grant assistance for social services.

CANADIAN LABOUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

- The Advisory Council organized a workshop and information session on the proposed establishment of a Canadian Labour Force Development Board with regional and local boards set up to facilitate training opportunities for Canadians.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

PERSON'S DAY

~ The Advisory Council participated in the First Annual Person's Day Breakfast organized by The Legal Education and Action Fund on October 18, 1991. Council's Chairperson delivered opening remarks at the Breakfast which honoured June Menzies, a 1991 recipient of the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Person's Case. Also recognized were other outstanding women from Manitoba who were recipients of the Person's Case Award in previous years, namely, Irene Grant, Jean Carson, Berenice Sisler, Sybil Shack and the late Isabel Ross Hunt.

Recipients of the Governor General's Award are recognized for their outstanding contributions in promoting the equality of women in Canada.

Five women from Alberta - Emily Murphy, Louise McKinney, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby and Henrietta Nuir Edwards - fought long and hard to have women considered as persons under the British North America Act. The success of their efforts was reflected in a decision by the British Privy Council on October 18, 1929, which declared Canadian women to be persons and thus, eligible for appointment to the Senate.

Award Winners: (left to right) Irene Grant, Berenice Sisler, June Menzies, Sybil Shack, Jeanne Carson

- Carman December 6 Memorial Committee Commemoration.

In addition to meeting with numerous Manitobans in their individual local areas to discuss issues pertaining to the status of women, Council members have also undertaken the following activities in their regions:

- establishment of a youth advisory committee of young Black women.
- distribution of family violence and other literature to several schools.
- facilitated at a National Meeting of the Japanese Canadian Women's Association.
- facilitated strategy planning as part of a consultation group regarding Women and Disability.

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

- Women in Non-Traditional Occupations: Review and Analysis of Recent Recommendations.
- Annual Report 1990-91.
- Video tapes of Keynote Speakers at Winning Women: Power and Ethics Conference.

COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

The Advisory Council's Chairperson, members or staff participated as resource persons on various community committees.

- The Winnipeg Real Estate Board founded the Citizen's Hall of Fame in 1986 to recognize outstanding individual contributions to the City of Winnipeg. Council was invited to participate on the Citizen's Hall of Fame Selection Committee.
- The Chairperson of the Advisory Council is the Co-Chair of the Public Consultation Committee of the Manitoba Working Group on Midwifery
- Domestic Violence Community Advisory Committee
- Coalition for Women in Education and Training
- Schools Against Violence Everywhere
- Women's World Finance (Manitoba Chapter)
- Women of Invention Planning Committee.
- Service Providers Network

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Some topics on which the Council Chairperson and members were asked to speak were:

- role of Council
- employment equity
- family violence
- Women's World Finance
- violence prevention resources for schools
- "Advocacy for Small Groups"
- educational issues and health
- U.N. End of Decade Conference in Manitoba
- Federation of University Women's Clubs - work of Council and future possibilities for the Clubs.
- Girl Guides, on equality of participation in schools by girls and women.
- Manitoba Child Care Association's 15th Annual Conference
- Immigrant Women's Association's International Women's Day Celebration
- Toronto Dominion Bank on employment equity.
- Workshop on Sexual Harassment
- Official Opening of Opasquiak Women's Resource Service

NEWS MEDIA

Council's Chairperson is frequently asked by representatives of the media to comment on current issues of concern to women. The following are some topics on which the Chairperson commented in 1991/92.

- Release of Single-Parent Families Report
- Rape Shield Law
- Activities of Council
- Choice of Words in Comic Strip
- Presentation at Hearing of Manitoba Task Force on the Constitution
- National Unity Hearings
- Violence
- Review of Domestic Violence in Manitoba
- Release of Pedlar Report
- MTS: proposed call display service
- Equal representation for Women in the Judiciary.
- Sexual Abuse of Patients
- Stemming the Tide of Hatred
- Name Change for Advisory Council

- Discontinuation of the Miss Canada Pageant
- Opening of Manitoba Club to Women
- Statistics on Gender Gap in work force.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Although the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council will continue to respond to emerging issues of concern, Council has identified some areas of major activity in 1992/93.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

In 1992-93, the Advisory Council will focus on the many issues involved in the education and training of women.

Council will work towards and will support the efforts of those working towards broadening the horizons of young women by encouraging them to develop skills which will enable them to compete more effectively in the job market.

Working towards the achievement of a non-sexist education in educational institutions, will continue to be a priority of Council.

Council will also continue to promote the need for greater accessibility to training and training support services for women.

ECONOMICS

While continuing to work for employment equity at various levels in the workplace, Council will work with women and women's organizations to facilitate the establishment of mechanisms which will assist in the achievement of economic independence for women.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Council is committed to the achievement of a violence-free society. In its efforts to minimize the effects of violence, Council will monitor and promote implementation of recommendations contained in the Pedlar Report. In addition the Advisory Council will respond to other reports and recommendations addressing violence against women.

PUBLICATIONS

The Advisory Council has prepared a number of research reports and submissions on a variety of issues of concern to women. The following are available free of charge from the Council office:

Annual Report 1990-91
October 1991

Women in Non-Traditional Occupations: Review & Analysis of Recent Recommendations
February 1991

Single-Parent Families Report
November 1990

Annual Report, 1989-90
October 1990

New Reproductive Technologies: Issues and Questions
July 1989

The Manitoba Lotteries Foundation "Are Women in the Game?"
March 1989

Annual Report, 1987-88
September 1988

Midwifery: Recommendations to the Manitoba Government
September 1988

Annual Report, 1986-87
November 1987

Spokesperson's Guide
September 1987

Response to the Position Paper on the Framework for Diversification in Western Canada
August 1987

Midwifery: A Discussion Paper
May 1987

Moving Forward: A Triennial Report (December 1982-March 1986)
March 1987

Women in the Labour Force: A Case Study of the Manitoba Jobs Fund
February 1987

The Economic Realities of Women Under the Manitoba Family Maintenance Act
October 1985

The "System's" Response to Victims of Incest in Manitoba
January 1985

Sexual Assault: Manitoba Concerns
November 1985

Information on Pornography
June 1983

Report on the Manitoba Pension Commission Hearings
March 29, 30, 1983

Briefs/Submissions

Response to Shaping Canada's Future Together: Proposals, Special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada
February 4, 1992

Presentation to the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba by the Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Re: Proposed Introduction of Call Management Services by the Manitoba Telephone System
December 11, 1991

Report to the Special Joint Committee on the Process for Amending the Constitution of Canada
June, 1991

Presentation to the Special Joint Committee on the Process for Amending the Constitution of Canada
March 27, 1991

Submission to the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies
October 23, 1990

Presentation to the Special Committee to Study the Proposed Companion Resolution to the Meech Lake Accord
April 25, 1990

New Reproductive Technologies: A Bibliography
January 1990

Response to "Elder Abuse in Manitoba" Manitoba Seniors' Directorate Discussion Paper
November 30, 1989

Manitoba Sport Policy Advisory Committee Discussion Paper
October 6, 1989

A Brief to the Canadian Human Rights Commission
May 15, 1989

Presentation to the Manitoba Task Force on the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord
April 27, 1989

Brief Presented to the Manitoba Task Force on Child Care
January 18, 1989

Presentation to the Public Hearings on Bill 11, The Child Custody Enforcement Amendment Act
December 15, 1988

Submission to the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry
September 13, 1988

Submission to the High School Review Panel
May 6, 1987

Brief to a Committee of the Legislature Regarding Bill 47, The Human Rights Code
July 9, 1987

The Economic Realities of Women
November 1984

Pornography: Presentation to the Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution Appointed by the Minister of Justice of Canada
April 1984

Reproductive Health: Recommendations to the Government of Manitoba
May 16, 1983

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1991 - 1992

SALARIES	
Managerial	46,840
Professional/Technical	38,068
Administrative Support	59,858
Total Salaries	**144,766**

OTHER EXPENDITURES	
Personal Services	49,514
Transportation	8,170
Communication	21,360
Supplies and Services	21,360
Physical Assets	0
Other Operating	17,148
Total Other Expenditures	**106,954**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**251,720**

AUDITORS' REPORT

Kuhtey & Company
CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

270-1630 Ness Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3X1
Telephone (204) 786-6430
Facsimile (204) 774-7687

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Chairperson and Members of the Council
Manitoba Women's Advisory Council:

We have examined the statement of operations of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council for the year ended March 31, 1992. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at March 31, 1992, and the results of its operation for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Kuhtey & Company

Certified General Accountant

July 10, 1992
Winnipeg, Manitoba